



United States Air Force

# ONLINE news

Vol. 2, No. 7

The official USAF newspaper (<http://www.af.mil/newspaper>)

Feb. 23, 2000

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## NEWSBYTES

### A-76 process broadcast

People can tune in to a broadcast discussing key aspects of the A-76 process Feb. 24. The broadcast will air from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. EST. Under the A-76 process, the Air Force finds the most efficient and effective way to provide support services by competing the services between in-house staff and private contractors. Issues include public announcement; contract solicitation and negotiation; cost comparison between government and private sector; and administrative appeal process.

This broadcast will be accessible via television, telephone call in, and Internet/computer. People can obtain specific information regarding broadcast access at the following web site <http://12.26.72.174/arcweb/a76/>

### AFIC seeks volunteers

Volunteers in the continental United States are being sought for various temporary duty positions in support of the 2001 Armed Forces Inaugural Committee. AFIC plans, coordinates, and executes approved military support to the presidential inauguration and inaugural events in the national capital region.

Details can be found at <http://www.bolling.af.mil/organizations/11wgstaff/afic/index.htm>

### Eberhart takes command of NORAD, SPACECOM

General Ralph E. "Ed" Eberhart assumed command of the North American Aerospace Defense Command, U.S. Space Command and Air Force Space Command in a ceremony Feb. 18 at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.

General Eberhart, former commander of Air Combat Command, replaces Gen. Richard B. Myers, who will become vice chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff.

## DOD fixes BAH inequity



By Jim Garamone  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Service members who move into areas where the basic allowance for housing rate dropped on Jan. 1 will still be paid at the higher 1999 rate, DOD officials said Feb. 22.

Pentagon spokesman Ken Bacon said DOD will add \$27 million to the basic allowance for housing to get rid of an "irritant" caused by a new method of mea-

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*DOD's new BAH policy will ensure no Air Force family suffers a pay inequity because of the date of their PCS move.*

## SECAF discusses budget

### ■ Peters stresses need for balance, integration

By Senior Airman A.J. Bosker  
Headquarters United States Air Force

WASHINGTON — The Air Force's fiscal 2001 budget focuses on people, readiness, modernization and infrastructure, according to Secretary of the Air Force F. Whitten Peters.

Speaking to more than 100 congressional representatives, aerospace leaders and reporters at an Aerospace Power seminar on Capitol Hill Feb. 17, Secretary Peters said the Air Force has — and will continue to require —

a large core of capabilities that strike and mobility assets can use to complete assigned missions. The budget for next year is balanced and integrated to support the service's evolution to the expeditionary aerospace force as well as broader national security objectives.

To be successful, according to Secretary Peters, the Air Force needs a program that is balanced by core competence, balanced with the right amount of space, manned- and unmanned-air vehicles — and balanced over time, to ensure key infrastructures are in place to support required capabilities.

"The Air Force budget must also be integrated," he said. "By this I mean we must start

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## Letters to the editor

U.S. Air Force Online News publishes letters based on their appeal to an Air Force-wide audience each week.

Send your letter to the U.S. Air Force Online News staff by completing the online form at <http://www.af.mil/newspaper/>

Due to the number of letters, not all letters can be published.

Letters may be edited for grammar and length. Only letters accompanied by a valid name and email address will be considered.

## Symbol touches surface only

The Air Force has long been in need of a facelift, and this proposed symbol may well be what is necessary, but I think it only touches the surface of what is wrong with today's military ... If this new symbol is backed by a return to the attitude that the Air Force takes care of its own ... then it will go a long way toward fixing the problems that are becoming apparent throughout the Air Force. But if it is only an empty symbol, then it will only be a new coat of paint thrown on rotten wood, and it will not be long before the Air Force collapses.

Abigail Wright  
RAF Lakenheath, U.K.

## Great to see!

Kudos to the Air Force for its Frame of Choice program! ["Airmen can now choose from six frames," Feb. 16] I am glad I no longer have to spend a minimum of \$100 out

of my pocket to buy a pair of glasses on the economy every time my prescription changes. The old glasses were not only horrible looking; but also made American GIs stick out like sore thumbs while out and about in Europe. What a great program all around!

Senior Airman Karen J. Hastings  
Ramstein AB, Germany

## Defending country not cheap

For the most part, the Air Force has taken care of the "AF family." It is true we are a leaner force required to accomplish more and sometimes with less people and material. However, ask yourself why you joined. Even though benefits and pay raises are increasing, democracy and defending our country is not cheap — it requires discipline, strong family support and a total force committed to meeting that objective. If you can't live up to that then separate or retire ...

Tech. Sgt. Mark K. Margara  
Scott AFB, Ill.

# REMEMBERING THOSE WHO SERVED

## Memorial reflects team, not solo efforts

*[Editor's note: The following commentary by the Air Force historian addresses the concerns by the Friends of Iwo Jima and others of the Air Force Memorial's construction on Arlington Ridge, Va. Opponents are concerned that placing the Air Force Memorial on the same tract of land will interfere with and encroach upon the Iwo Jima Memorial.]*

On May 10, 1999, following two years of protest, debate and litigation, the U.S. Court of Appeals ruled in favor of the Air Force Memorial Foundation, giving the green light to proceed with the memorial's construction. The foundation asserts the selected site for the Air Force Memorial is appropriately set near the site of the first military flight in 1908, and is designed to complement the other war memorials in the vicinity.]

By Dr. Richard Hallion  
Air Force historian

The current controversy over the Air Force Memorial being erected near the U.S. Marine Corps' Iwo Jima Memorial on Arlington Ridge, Va., has left many of us

puzzled over the uproar.

It is critically important that those opposed to the Air Force Memorial realize the United States military services train and fight as a team, not as solo players. The real "hallowed ground" we all share is Arlington Cemetery, and its equivalents across the country, where many of us from all services have buried far too many friends and colleagues.

Monuments are visible and reflective symbols that cause us to pause in our daily activities and beckon us to visit them and contemplate what they tell us about the past. They are not—and should not be allowed to become—"churchyards" or totems addressing false issues such as "which service is better," "which service is more important," "which service has had more sacrifice," "which service owns which plot of land," and the like. That spirit runs counter to the shared legacy of honor and sacrifice that all American servicemen and women inherit.

Those who are not in favor of the Air Force Memorial miss the undeniable fact that the Air Force and Marine Corps have worked together with far greater cooperation, effectiveness, and shared sacrifice than people might think. The story of one of our

Air Force Medal of Honor recipients, Capt. Steven Bennett, illustrates this.

During desperate attacks against North Vietnamese forces in 1972, an enemy missile set his plane ablaze, wounding his observer, Marine Capt. Mike Brown, and destroying Brown's parachute. Rather than eject, Bennett chose to ditch in the Tonkin Gulf so that Brown could survive—even though he knew that the plane's ditching characteristics and impact would trap him, and he would drown.

Not surprisingly, Bennett received a posthumous Medal of Honor for his "unparalleled concern for his companion, extraordinary heroism and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty, at the cost of his life."

I doubt Marine Captain Brown would have any trouble sharing any spot of land honoring Air Force Captain Steven Bennett. Arlington Ridge is big enough for both the Marine Corps and the Air Force. I look forward to a time when the descendants of Steven Bennett and Mike Brown can stroll from one memorial to the other, reflecting, remembering and maybe raising a toast and a prayer or two for those from the Marine Corps and the Air Force who have gone before.



# A Anthrax

## DOD disagrees with House

By Army Staff Sgt. Kathleen T. Rhem  
American Forces Press Service

**WASHINGTON (AFPN)** — Defense Department officials said they have no intention of ending their program of mandatory anthrax vaccinations for service members, despite a House of Representatives panel's recommendation that the program should be suspended.

"The Department of Defense is very confident in the anthrax program that we have undertaken," said Dr. Sue Bailey, assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, at a Pentagon briefing Feb. 17. "We have a very safe and effective vaccine against a very deadly biologic agent that we know to be in the hands of many of our adversaries.

"Were (service members) not vaccinated and exposed to this agent, they would die a horrible death. It is our mission to protect those forces," Dr. Bailey said.

A critical report released Feb. 17 by the Government Reform Committee's National Security subcommittee stated the military's program to inoculate all 2.4 million troops against anthrax was based on "dangerously narrow scientific" evidence. The panel recommended the vaccination program be suspended and the vaccine be considered experimental.

The Pentagon's top bio-defense official, Marine Corps Maj. Gen. Randy L. West, said he was disappointed by much of what was in that report. General West is the special advisor to the secretary of defense for anthrax and bio-defense affairs.

► **In a related story, DOD clarifies exemptions to the anthrax vaccination program. Check it out online.**

"There are a lot of allegations in there that I believe were appropriately answered during the seven hearings that we had on this issue last year," General West said, referring to congressional hearings on the anthrax vaccination program held in September and October. "I believe if you take many of the negative comments that are made in the report and go back and bounce them against the testimony that was given, you'll find many of those concerns were adequately addressed."

However, the general said, he's glad that the committee called DOD's program a well-intended effort and that the members recognized there is a legitimate threat.

"I would champion their proposal that we aggressively seek a better vaccine," he said. In fact, the general said, there's currently a funded, aggressive program under the supervision of the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta to do just that.

*This article is available in its entirety online.*

## DOD fixes BAH

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suring service members' stateside housing costs. Service members of the same grade and living in the same area were receiving different allowances.

The new computing system raised allowances in some areas and reduced them in others. But DOD officials gave one-time rate protection to service members in areas where the rates declined — so long as they did not move, the members would be paid at the higher rate.

However, Mr. Bacon said, service members moving into an area were receiving the new, lower rate. The additional \$27 million eliminates this inequity, he said.

"This was a problem of great concern for those receiving less money from the government," Mr. Bacon said. "So we're going to fix this small, but annoying inequity that some service members were experiencing." He said DOD officials are not sure where the \$27 million will come from.

With this action, Mr. Bacon said, DOD officials hope all concerned can focus on the larger problem: eliminating out-of-pocket expenses for service members living off-post by 2005. He said service members living off base currently pay about 19 percent of their costs out-of-pocket. Defense Secretary William S. Cohen has proposed reducing those expenses to 15 percent in 2001. Eliminating out-of-pocket expenses will cost \$3 billion.

DOD computes basic housing allowance rates for more than 400 U.S. locations. DOD-wide, about 752,000 service members are eligible for the allowance, and about 73 percent receive it at the "with dependents" rates.

## Air Force undersecretary visits Lackland recruits

Undersecretary of the Air Force Carol DiBattiste presided over the Basic Military Training graduation ceremony at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, Feb. 18, to swear in all the graduating airmen, and specifically two airmen who were "the first Air Force recruits of the new millennium."

*This article is available in its entirety online.*

## Pilot OK after F-16 crash

**LUKE AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz.** — An F-16C Fighting Falcon assigned to the 63<sup>rd</sup> Fighter Squadron here crashed on the Barry M. Goldwater Range at approximately 12:10 p.m. Feb. 16. The pilot, Maj. Anthony Barrell, 38, safely ejected.

*This article is available in its entirety online.*

## AF expands Junior ROTC units

**WASHINGTON** — The Air Force is expanding the number of Junior ROTC units from 609 to 945 by fiscal 2005.

"By opening new high school JROTC units, we hope to broaden public awareness of the Air Force, increase our presence in local communities and provide our children with a wonderful program," said Gen. Michael E. Ryan, Air Force chief of staff.



Photo by SMSgt. (ret.) Al Bordelon

*Air Force Junior ROTC cadets raise the American Flag at a memorial dedication.*

The expansion of 45 new units in high schools during fiscal 2000 will provide more opportunities for more students, according to Lt. Col. Jimmie Varnado, chief of the junior program branch at Headquarters Air Force Officer Accession and Training Schools.

*This article is available in its entirety online.*





# HARASSMENT POLICY

## Air Force enacts guidelines

By Staff Sergeant Cynthia Miller

Headquarters United States Air Force

**WASHINGTON** — The policy on homosexuals in the military is the subject of new guidelines being staffed through the office of the secretary of the Air Force.

New guidelines, designed to strengthen the administration of the policy, focus on training, changes to the procedures for initiating commander-directed inquiries and harassment.

"It is important to note here that the underlying policy that homosexual conduct is incompatible with military service has not changed," said Harlan Wilder, chief of the Judge Advocate General's General Law Division. "What is changing is the way we process homosexual conduct cases and the emphasis given to training, to include training on the investigation of reports of threats or harassment based on perceived homosexual orientation."

According to Mr. Wilder, all commanders, investigators and judge advocates will be trained on the policy. Additionally, people will receive guidance from the Air Force secretary and chief of staff emphasizing that ha-

arrassment of any kind, including that based on perceived homosexual orientation, has no place in the Air Force and will not be tolerated.

"Training on the policy will continue in our accession programs, as a part of our commander and first sergeant courses and in our professional military education and training courses. In addition, the briefings required by Article 137 of the [Uniform Code of Military Justice] will continue to include information on the policy on homosexual conduct in the military," he said.

Briefings approved by the Department of Defense to meet the required training will be distributed to the field shortly. There are currently three briefings, each designed to meet the needs of a different audience: one to meet the Article 137 requirement, one for commanders, judge advocates and investigators, and one for general military audiences. "Those giving the briefings may add to the material in the briefings, but the basic information in the briefings will become the baseline for Inspector General review of the training."

*This article is available in its entirety online.*

### CMSAF cites concerns

**WASHINGTON** — Recruiting, retention and Basic Allowance for Housing were the focus of the chief master sergeant of the Air Force's testimony before the House Armed Services subcommittee on military construction Feb. 16.

"I am extremely grateful to the president, Congress and the nation, for the historic gains in compensation and benefits made in the Fiscal 2000 National Defense Authorization Act," said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Jim Finch in a written statement provided to the committee.

*Get the complete version of both of the above articles online.*

### Dover AFB officer accepts nonjudicial punishment

**DOVER AIR FORCE BASE, Del.**

**(AMCNS)** — Maj. Sonnie Bates, who has been accused of disobeying a lawful order from a superior officer, has withdrawn his prior request to be tried by court-martial. On Feb. 15, Major Bates requested and accepted nonjudicial punishment proceedings under Article 15 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Additionally, Col. S. Taco Gilbert III, 436th Air-lift Wing commander, granted Major Bates' request to terminate court-martial proceedings.

### SECAF discusses budget

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from the capabilities the Air Force is tasked to supply to the nation ... and work backwards to ensure we have fashioned a system of systems that will produce these effects.

"What we want to avoid is an 'irrational exuberance' for a particular platform," he said. "Too often in the Air Force, in the press and on Capitol Hill, we discuss the Air Force budget in terms of platforms; bombers vs. fighters, C-130J vs. C-17, the list can go on and on. These discussions miss the point. None of our platforms is, must or should be a 'Swiss army knife' — a self-contained platform that brings all things to the battlefield."

The Air Force is proposing a balanced and integrated program that focuses on four fundamentals — people, readiness, modernization and infrastructure, according to Secretary Peters.

"The key words are balance and integration," he said. "The Air Force has made the greatest gains by using its assets in an integrated campaign, and the Air Force budget must move all Air Force systems forward together to permit the absolutely critical integration step to occur."

"Nothing says more about how far the Air Force has come in the past decade than last year's air war over Kosovo," he said. "Operation Allied Force proved that many of the concepts central to our vision of an expeditionary aerospace force in the 21st century worked the way we planned them."

According to Secretary Peters, the Air Force's deployment to 21 expeditionary bases occurred so smoothly due to prior planning and programming that it wasn't mentioned in any of the "lessons learned" reports. "For the first time, we routinely used our communications network to reach back to the United States for intelligence and logistics support," he said.

*This article is available in its entirety online.*



## U.S. Air Force ONLINE news

U.S. Air Force ONLINE news is produced each Wednesday by the Secretary of the Air Force Office of Public Affairs and is available via Air Force Link (<http://www.af.mil/newspaper>). This funded U.S. Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for Air Force members and their families. Content is endorsed by the Department of the Air Force, but is not necessarily the views of or endorsed by the U.S. Government or Department of Defense. Editorial offices: SAF/PAI, 901 N. Stuart Suite 605, Arlington VA 22203. Telephone (703) 696-7832, Fax (703) 696-9162. Please post on unit bulletin boards and pass this copy on to others who need current Air Force news and information. Reproduce as needed.

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